



Caring for Your New Sod



You must take care of your new sod!

Now that sod is placed next to your reconstructed street and/or driveway area, care must be taken to help it survive. We need your help to ensure the sod receives adequate water and maintenance. To begin with, please avoid walking on your new sod for the first 3 weeks.

Watering – Crystal residents will receive a one time \$10 water bill credit for sod watering

Please begin watering your new sod as soon as it has been placed. Your efforts, when combined with the contractor watering the sod for the **first 30 days only**, will help the sod grow so your lawn looks its best. **After the first 30 days, it will be entirely up to you to water!** Your actions will be especially important if there is little rainfall and hot temperatures.

The rule of thumb for watering mature lawns is a minimum of 1 inch per week. **New sod requires twice as much water or 2 inches per week** done in 3 or 4 applications. More frequent, lighter waterings are not desirable, as they encourage shallow roots instead of deep roots. The roots of new sod require about a year to reach their full length. Lawns need deep roots to help them withstand periods of little or no rain.

During extended hot and dry periods, new sod should be thoroughly soaked every day. Checking to see if you are watering enough is easily done by placing a shallow, flat-bottomed container under the sprinkler. Then just measure the water depth in the container.

Any rainfall received during the week, can be included in your 2-inch a week watering total. You should continue watering the new sod for 2 or 3 growing seasons to ensure good established root growth.

Sod placed along the edges of driveways reconstructed on private property

If you reconstructed your driveway beyond your front property line using the City's contractor, **you** are responsible for watering the sod that may have been placed along the edges of your driveway on your private property. The contractor will **not** water sod on your private property! Please begin watering this sod as soon as it is placed using the instructions given above.

Mowing

Your new sod should not be mowed until either the grass lies over and mats down when wetted or the grass goes to seed. Don't be alarmed if either of these conditions does not occur in the first 30 days. Prior to mowing, set the mower deck at the **highest setting** and cut the new sod with this setting for the remainder of the year. **Your new sod will die if you cut it at the same setting as the one you ordinarily use to cut your mature lawn.**

Fertilizing

The contractor will fertilize the sod in the spring of 2012; therefore, **you will not need to fertilize the sod** until the fall of 2012 or the spring of 2013. **If you fertilize sooner, you risk killing the sod.** When you do fertilize, use a 10-10-10, 12-12-12 or similar mixture and follow manufacturer's instructions on application rates. After one year switch back to a "0" phosphorous fertilizer (the middle number) as required by state law.

If you have any questions or problems with your sod, please contact Mick Cyert (763.531.1161 or mick.cyert@ci.crystal.mn.us) or Chris McKenzie (952.912.2607 or cmckenzie@sehinc.com).

The combined efforts of you and the contractor should result in a healthy, vigorous lawn. We appreciate your assistance.

City of Crystal and Short Elliott Hendrickson Inc.